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Volume 11 Issue 239

Free with TOI & STOI

## New team, new coach and a determination to win



Ajay Thakur

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E Bhaskaran

FOR ANY PLAYER, REPRESENTING THE COUNTRY IS A BIG THING, AND THEREFORE, LOSING AT AN EVENT LIKE THE ASIAN GAMES IS PAINFUL. WHAT'S LEFT NOW IS TO PERFORM WELL IN THE LEAGUE AND PROVE THAT WE'LL COME BACK STRONG NEXT TIME AND WIN THE GOLD AT THE ASIAN GAMES

— AJAY THAKUR, CAPTAIN

**K**ai pidi, or kabaddi, as we know of it today, has its roots in rural Tamil Nadu. No wonder, the state has produced several national and international players in the past. But when a team from the state played for the first time in Pro-Kabaddi League last season, the result wasn't something we'd want to talk much about: the Tamil Thalaivas finished last in Zone B table. However, this season, with a new squad and new coach, they're looking forward to starting afresh.

Back from the Asian Games, the team's captain, Ajay Thakur (who's also the national team's captain), feels it's time to put the past behind, both for the team, and for him, individually, too. When India settled for a bronze at the Asian Games, the team was kind of giving away the dominance it had over the sport for the last 28 years — winning gold medal in the previous seven editions. But now, he sounds confident about starting his stint as the captain of Tamil Thalaivas, as he says, "Playing in the league is completely different from that of representing the country, though both are played at the professional level. For any player, representing the country is a big thing and therefore, losing at an event like the Asian Games is painful. But what's left now is to perform well in the league and prove that we'll come back strong next time and win the gold at the Asian Games."

Concurring with Ajay, the team's new coach, E Bhaskaran, says, "Of course, Ajay was affected by the result at the Games. But it's been more than a month, and now, he has a different role to play and he knows his responsibilities well. I know him since his initial days in kabaddi. So, we share a good rapport." Also, Bhaskaran reiterates that the team's performance in the last season is in no way going to let their confidence level down. "I have a big responsibility to bring them up to the top of the league. We wouldn't say that the team was weak last year; they played to the best of their abilities. The matches that went out of their hands were the ones that they messed up at the fag end, and that too, mainly because of lack of experience. This time, we've sorted that out and have a good combination of experienced and young players," he states. Ajay adds, "With the experience of Manjeet (Chhillar), Jasvir (Singh) and Suresh Hegde, we definitely want to turn the table around." But the challenge is to maintain the fitness of players throughout the league, says Bhaskaran.

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## IS NAVARATRI CELEBRATION LOSING ITS INTIMATE TOUCH?

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**C**ome Navaratri and families, especially women and children, are rushed off their feet as they make last-minute sprints to the market to buy dolls, return gifts and decorations. While vendors take over the pavements in West Mambalam, Triplicane and Mylapore, showrooms like Poompuhar and Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan, too, are all spruced and dolled up for this festive occasion's buying frenzy. Truckloads of dolls of all hues and dimensions have arrived in the city to woo customers, this year, too. However, GST and runaway fuel prices have been a dampener for artisans, who say the prices are up by at least 30 per cent due to the above reasons. Every year, new dolls are added to the collection, making it easy for those scouting for exclusive dolls and thematic kolu sets. Even the age-old *marapachis* are no exception. Poompuhar has displayed Dasavatharam and Ramar sets in *marapachi* style, among others. There has been a huge demand for thematic kolu dolls, says Latha, who has displayed a wide array of Kondapalli toys inside, as has Bose from Kolkata, who has been coming to Chennai to sell his wares for the last several years. "There is a good demand for toys made with Kolkata clay. Since the prices have gone up, sales are yet to pick up," he says. Indira from Mahabalipuram points out that this time the new arrivals include Kamalambika and Veerabhadran.



**SUNDAL USED TO BE AN INDISPENSABLE ITEM. SINCE NAVARATRI HERALDS WINTER, IT'S HEALTHY TO HAVE PULSES. HOWEVER, FAST FOOD AND PIZZAS HAVE TAKEN OVER THE SIMPLE SUNDALS EVEN DURING NAVARATRI, MAKING KIDS GORGE ON JUNK FOOD**

— S KRIPA, DOCTOR



CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## Deepika to play acid attack survivor Laxmi Agarwal

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**D**eepika Padukone will be playing acid attack survivor Laxmi Agarwal in her next. She will also be producing the yet-untitled Meghna Gulzar directorial. "When I heard this story, I was deeply moved as it's not just one of violence but of strength and courage, hope and victory. It made such an impact on me, that personally and creatively, I needed to go beyond and so the decision to turn producer," says Deepika. Laxmi was 15, waiting at a bus stop in Delhi in 2005, when she was attacked. Her 32-year-old assailant was an acquaintance who harboured a one-sided attraction towards her. Meghna says, "Using Laxmi's story as a lens, we are attempting to explore these aspects and the consequences of acid-related violence in our society. This is what makes this must-told story relevant. Awareness is the first step towards change," she adds. "If the story is to be summed up in one line, then it's one of triumph, of an 'unquashable' human spirit."

About why she chose Deepika, the *Raazi* director says, "I was instinctively convinced that she would do justice to the character and the story. Also, her physicality matched with what I'd imagined for Laxmi's character. When you take a face as beautiful as hers and portray her as an acid attack survivor, the magnitude of the violence and damage is that much more resounding."



Laxmi Agarwal



Deepika Padukone

## 'You can fail at a lot of things in life, but if you fail at parenting, it can be devastating'

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**S**he chose to tie the knot at 24 when she was at the peak of her career. She could have continued to be a part of the race even post that, but she preferred to focus on her family. That's Kajol, who believes in setting her own benchmark when it comes to her life and career. And why not? It has worked superbly for her. Even after completing 25 years in Bollywood, she has the zest and enthusiasm of a newcomer. She takes her time to pick and choose just the kind of films that excite her. In a candid chat, the actress speaks about her upcoming film *Helicopter Eela*, the relationship she shares with her kids and the lessons she has learnt from her mother Tanuja. Excerpts...

**Your film was originally supposed to be titled Eela. How did it change to Helicopter Eela? Helicopter parenting is an American concept... I don't know about American parenting concept, but it's definitely Indian parenting. It's about over-protective parents, who are constantly hovering around their kids, asking them if they have eaten or not, what time they will be back from school, etc. That's just our way of parenting. Eela is probably a little more than that. But whatever she does, stems out of her love for her son.**

**How did this film come to you? Was Ajay (Devgn) looking for a good script to produce for you?**

Nothing like that happened. Anand Gandhi and Mitesh Shah (writers) approached me saying that they had this script, which they wanted me to hear. When I heard it, I thought it was fabulous and fortunately for me, my husband also heard the script with me. He said, "If you like it so much, we will produce it." It's one of those films that I instantly liked and said, "I am doing it. Nobody else is doing it!" *Eela* is adventurously funny. The film has comedy and at the same time, it has a message. It's about the relationship of a child with the mother, who's a single parent. That kind of a relationship is deep and you know that it's just the both of you against the whole world. You may fight with your mother and not like some of the things that she does, but if someone comes and says anything to her, you will be the first one to stand up for her. That's exactly the relationship between *Eela* and her son.

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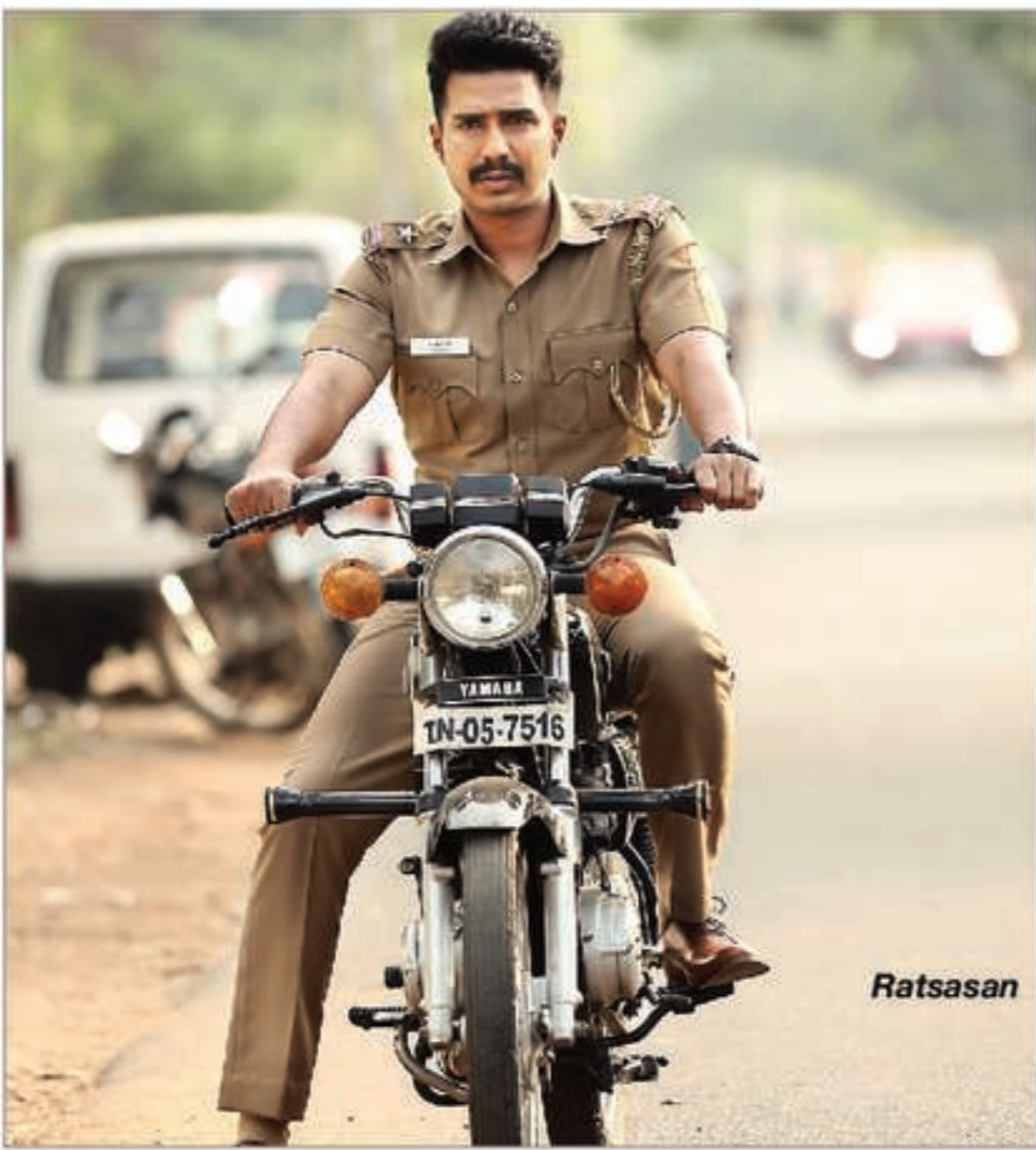


KAJOL



CINEMA

96 (U) ★★★
58888 Code: 96
Vijay Sethupathi, Trisha
After a chance visit to his school, a photographer decides to have a reunion with his school friends...



Ratsasan

Palazzo 8.25 & 11.55am, 3.30, 6.50, 7.05 & 10.40pm; Sathyam 9.00 & 11.45am, 12.00, 3.10, 6.35, 9.45 & 10.00pm; Abirami 9.40am, 12.40, 4.00, 7.20 & 10.40pm; AGS Navalur 10.10 & 10.20am, 1.15, 3.55, 7.15 & 10.00pm; AGS T Nagar 8.10 & 11.25am, 2.45, 6.40 & 10.35pm; AGS Villivakkam 8.10 & 8.40am, 12.00, 12.30, 2.45, 6.45, 7.15 & 10.00pm; AGS Maduravoyal 7.30, 8.00, 11.00 & 11.20am, 3.15, 6.40, 7.00 & 10.45pm; Escape 12.00, 3.35, 7.10 & 10.30pm; Sri Ganga 11.30am, 3.00, 6.30 & 10.00pm; GK 12.15, 7.01 & 10.20pm; GanapathyRam 11.30am & 2.30pm; Luxe 8.20, 8.50, 9.30 & 9.50am, 12.00, 3.20, 3.40, 6.40, 7.20, 10.00 & 10.40pm; Kasi Talkies 8.30am, 12.00, 4.00, 7.15, 7.30, 10.45 & 11.00pm; MSM 11.30am & 10.00pm; Mayajaal 9.00, 9.15, 10.20, 11.00, 11.15 & 11.45am, 12.30, 1.25, 2.05, 2.20, 4.45, 4.30, 5.10, 5.25, 5.45, 7.35, 8.00, 8.15, 8.25, 8.30, 8.45, 10.00, 10.40, 11.05, 11.20, 11.25, 11.35 & 11.40pm; National 11.30am, 2.45, 6.30 & 10.00pm; PVR Ampa 9.00am, 12.30, 3.30, 7.00 & 10.00pm; PVR Red Hills 9.00 & 11.45am, 3.10, 6.35 & 10.00pm; PVR Pallavaram 9.15am, 12.00, 4.30, 7.00 & 10.00pm; PVR Velachery 9.00am, 12.20, 3.20, 7.00 & 10.00pm; Shree Radha 11.30am, 2.45, 6.30 & 10.00pm; Raj 11.45am, 3.00, 6.45 & 10.00pm; Rohini 10.00am, 1.00, 4.00, 7.00 & 10.30pm; S2 Perambur 8.40am, 12.00, 3.30, 7.00 & 10.20pm; Sivasakthi 11.45am, 3.00 & 10.00pm; S2 Theagaraja 9.00 & 11.45am, & 6.30pm; Woodlands 11.45am & 6.30pm; Sangam 12.20, 3.55, 7.20 & 10.50pm; Devi 12.30, 3.45, 7.00 & 10.15pm; Ega 12.25 & 7.25pm; Kamala 12.00, 3.30 & 10.50pm; AVM Rajeswari 12.00 & 6.30pm; Rakki Ambattur 9.00am, 12.00, 3.30, 7.00 & 10.40pm; Albert 11.45am & 10.00pm; Meenakshi 3.00pm; Murugan 11.40am, 3.05, 6.40 & 10.30pm; Vettri 11.50am, 3.15 & 9.55pm; C3 Laurel 12.00, 3.15, 6.45 & 10.15pm; iDreams 10.00am & 4.00pm; Arvind 11.30am, 3.00, 6.30 & 10.00pm; Maharani 11.45am & 3.00pm; Gopikrishna 9.00am, 12.15, 4.15, 7.25 & 10.45pm; Bharath 6.30 & 10.00pm; FB 11.55am, 2.10, 6.11 & 9.17pm; Rakki Thiruvallur 9.30am & 3.30pm; Alankar 11.30am, 2.30, 6.30 & 9.30pm

3.20, 6.40 & 10.00pm; Varadharaja 12.00, 3.15, 6.30 & 9.45pm; C3 Laurel 11.45am, 2.45, 6.45 & 10.15pm; iDreams 1.00 & 7.00pm; Sri Brinda 11.30am, 2.45, 6.30 & 9.45pm; Sri Shanmuga 11.45am, 3.00, 6.30 & 10.00pm; Maharani 6.30pm; Bharath 3.00pm; Lathaa 11.00am, 2.15, 6.00 & 9.15pm; Rakki Thiruvallur 12.30, 6.30 & 10.00pm; Velco 11.30am, 2.30, 6.30 & 9.30pm; Anul Muduga 11.30am, 2.30, 6.30 & 9.30pm

3.20, 6.40 & 10.00pm; PVR Velachery 1.20 & 7.25pm; Rohini 10.00am, 1.00, 4.00 & 10.30pm; S2 Perambur 4.00 & 10.40pm; Velco 11.30am; Gopikrishna 12.15, 4.15, 7.15 & 10.15pm; Murugan 11.40am & 4.30pm; Albert 6.30 & 10.00pm; Rakki Ambattur 12.00 & 3.15pm; Udhayam 11.45am, 2.45, 6.45 & 10.00pm; Devi 1.00 & 4.00pm

RAJA RANGULU (U/A) ★★★
58888 Code: raj
Shirish, Chandini Tamarilasan
A costable becomes the prime suspect in the murder of a woman.
Escape 7.15pm; Sri Ambika 11.30am, 2.45, 6.30 & 10.00pm

RATSASAN (U/A) ★★★
58888 Code: rat
Vishnu Vishal, Amala Paul, Kasi Venkat
A serial killer is murdering school girls, and a newbie cop has to track him down before the victim count increases.
Escape 7.15pm; PVR Ampa 11.30am, 2.45, 6.30 & 10.00pm

CHAKKA CHIVANTHA VAANAM (U/A) ★★★
58888 Code: che
Arvind Swami, Simbu, Vijay Sethupathi, Arun Vijay, Jyotika, Dayana Erappa, Aditi Rao Hydari, Aishwarya Rajesh, Prakash Raj, Jayasudha
An attempt is made on the life of a reigning don, and it sets in motion a succession battle between his three sons.
Palazzo 8.40am, 12.00, 3.25, 6.50 & 10.10pm; Sathyam 9.55am, 12.35, 4.00, 7.20 & 10.45pm; Abirami 10.45am, 1.30, 4.30, 7.30 & 10.30pm; AGS Navalur 1.05, 4.20, 7.05 & 10.30pm; AGS T Nagar 12.00, 3.45, 7.20 & 10.10pm; AGS Villivakkam 8.45 & 11.30am, 3.30, 6.30 & 10.30pm; AGS Maduravoyal 11.50am, 3.05, 7.15 & 10.15pm; Escape 9.10am, 12.15, 3.20, 7.15 & 10.40pm; Sri Ganga 11.30am, 3.00, 6.30 & 10.00pm; GK 12.00, 3.00, 7.01 & 10.20pm; GanapathyRam 6.45 & 10.20pm; Luxe 8.55 & 9.35am, 12.00, 12.40, 3.00, 4.00, 6.30, 7.15 & 10.25pm; Jothi 11.14am, 2.15 & 7.15pm; Kasi Talkies 11.30am, 3.00, 6.30 & 10.00pm; Kumaran Madipakkam 11.30am, 2.15 & 7.30pm; Kumaran Avadi 3.00, 6.30 & 10.00pm; Mayajaal 9.00, 11.00, 11.45 & 11.55am, 2.00, 2.45, 2.50, 5.00, 5.45, 5.45, 8.00, 8.40, 8.45, 11.00, 11.35 & 11.40pm; PVR Ampa 9.15am, 12.15, 4.00, 7.30 & 10.30pm; PVR Red Hills 9.30am, 12.45, 4.00, 7.15 & 10.30pm; PVR Pallavaram 9.30am, 12.30, 3.45, 6.50 & 10.30pm; PVR Velachery 10.00am, 12.00, 3.45, 6.45 & 10.30pm; Parimalam 11.45am, 2.45, 6.30 & 9.45pm; Rohini 10.15am, 1.15, 4.00, 6.45 & 10.30pm; SK-Marlen 11.30am, 2.15, 4.45, 7.20 & 10.15pm; S2 Perambur 9.55am, 1.00, 4.10, 7.20 & 10.35pm; Sri Venkateshwara 11.30am, 2.30, 6.30 & 9.45pm; S2 Theagaraja 12.25, 3.45, 7.00 & 9.45pm; Woodlands 3.00 & 10.00pm; Sangam 12.30, 3.45, 7.00 & 10.15pm; Ega 1.00 & 10.55pm; Kamala 12.00, 7.00 & 10.35pm; Kasi 11.30am, 3.00 & 6.30pm; AVM Rajeswari 3.00 & 10.00pm; Udhayam 2.45, 6.45 & 10.00pm; Rakki Ambattur 12.15, 3.15, 6.40 & 10.15pm; Albert 3.00 & 6.30pm; Meenakshi 11.30am, 6.30 & 10.00pm; Murugan 1.30 & 7.30pm; Vettri

IMAIKKAA NODIGAL (U/A) ★★★
58888 Code: ima
Nayanthara, Atharva, Anurag Kashyap
A CBI officer goes in search of a serial killer.
Palazzo 3.35pm; Abirami 12.30pm; Escape 1.00pm; Luxe 1.05pm; Mayajaal 5.20pm

KOLAMAAYU KOKILA (U/A) ★★★
58888 Code: kol
Nayanthara, Saranya Ponvannan
A young woman takes up drug peddling to make money for the treatment of her mom.
Escape 3.30pm; Mayajaal 11.50am

NOTA (U) ★★★
58888 Code: not
Vijay Deverakonda, Mehreen Pirzada, Yaashika Anand, Nasser, Sathyaraj
Sitting chief minister Vinodhan, who is facing imprisonment in an illegal assets case, makes his son, Varun the temporary CM until his return. The disinterested young man gradually wakes up to the sorry state of affairs and tries to bring in a change.
Palazzo 8.55am, 12.10 & 6.40pm; Sathyam 8.35am, 4.10, 7.20 & 10.30pm; Abirami 9.45am, 7.15 & 10.20pm; AGS Navalur 7.10pm; AGS T Nagar 8.30am, 3.05, 6.30 & 10.25pm; AGS Villivakkam 9.10am, 12.15, 3.45, 6.55 & 10.10pm; AGS Maduravoyal 8.15, 8.30 & 10.20am, 2.00, 6.10 & 9.45pm; Escape 10.50am & 12.20pm; GK 5.00 & 9.15am & 10.30pm; Luxe 8.35, 9.50 & 11.45am, 12.55, 3.00, 6.30 & 9.40pm; Jothi 4.45 & 10.15pm; Kasi Talkies 5.00 & 11.20am & 11.00pm; Mayajaal 9.15, 10.40 & 11.40am, 1.40, 2.40, 4.40, 5.40, 7.40, 8.40, 10.40 & 11.40am; MM 6.30 & 10.00pm; PVR Velachery 9.00am, 12.50, 4.45 & 10.15pm; PVR Pallavaram 9.30am & 4.00pm; PVR Red Hills 9.15am, 12.00, 3.45 & 10.20pm; Remy 3.15 & 10.00pm; Raj 3.00 & 10.00pm; Rohini 10.00am, 1.00, 4.00, 4.05, 7.00 & 10.30pm; S2 Perambur 9.05am, 12.25 & 6.50pm; S2 Theagaraja 8.35am & 3.15pm; Woodlands 3.00pm; Sangam 12.30 & 7.25pm; Devi 1.00 & 4.00pm; Ega 12.45 & 4.00pm; Kamala 7.15pm; Kasi 5.00am, 8.15 & 10.00pm; Rakki Ambattur 9.00am, 12.00 & 3.15pm; Albert 11.45am & 3.00pm; Murugan 1.30 & 4.30pm; Vettri 8.45am; iDreams 10.00pm; Gopikrishna 9.00am, 12.30, 3.45, 6.50 & 10.30pm; Meera 10.45am, 2.30, 6.30 & 9.30pm; Velco 8.00am, 2.30, 6.30 & 9.30pm

ENGLISH
CRAZY RICH ASIANS (A) ★★★
58888 Code: cra
Michelle Yoh, Gemma Chan, Ken Jeong, Henry Golding, Constance Wu, Lisa Lu
New Yorker Rachel Chu accompanies boyfriend Nick Young to his best friend's wedding in Singapore.
Escape 10.30pm; Mayajaal 3.20 & 10.15pm; Palazzo 10.30am & 7.35pm

SAAMY2 (U) ★★
58888 Code: saa
Vikram, Bobby Simha, Prabhu, Aishwarya Rajesh, Keerthy Suresh
Aurusamy's son becomes a cop and takes on the criminal who murdered his parents.
Palazzo 12.00 & 7.00pm; Escape 12.40pm; Luxe 12.50pm; Mayajaal 5.40pm; S2 Perambur 12.35pm; Sri Nataraja 11.30am, 2.30, 6.30 & 10.00pm

SEEMARAJA (U) ★★★
58888 Code: see
Sivakarthikeyan, Samantha, Simran
The heir of a royal family tries to save his land and villagers from a greedy man.
Palazzo 3.30 & 10.35pm; Sathyam 3.00pm; Escape 7.10pm; Mayajaal 12.15pm; Malliga 11.55am, 2.15 & 6.15pm; PVR Red Hills 3.00pm; S2 Perambur 7.20pm

U-TURN (U/A) ★★★
58888 Code: utu
Samantha Akkineni, Aadi Pinisetty, Rahul Ravindran, Bhumiika Chawla
A journalist traces the history of those who die after unlawfully taking a u-turn on a flyover.
Palazzo 12.00pm; Escape 2.00pm; Sri Venkateswara 10.15am, 2.00 & 6.15pm

VENOM (U/A) (2D) (DUBBED IN TAMIL) ★★★
58888 Code: ven
Tom Hardy, Michelle Williams, Riz Ahmed, Jenny Slate, Reid Scott, Woody Harrelson
Journalist Eddie Brock becomes host to an alien Symbiote, which, in turn, gives him unimaginable powers.
Rohini 1.00 & 7.00pm; AGS Villivakkam 4.15pm; PVR Red Hills 9.00am

VENOM (U/A) (3D) ★★★
58888 Code: ven
Tom Hardy, Michelle Williams, Riz Ahmed, Jenny Slate, Reid Scott, Woody Harrelson
AGS Navalur 10.45pm; AGS T Nagar 8.20am & 10.00pm; AGS Maduravoyal 8.05am & 10.35pm; Escape 9.30am, 3.40 & 10.10pm; Kasi Talkies 2.30pm; Mayajaal 10.30am, 12.55 & 5.50pm; PVR Ampa 7.15pm; PVR Pallavaram 10.45am, 1.30 & 7.45pm; PVR Velachery 10.15am, 4.30 & 10.45pm; S2 Perambur 9.55am, 12.30 & 6.55pm; Sathyam 11.00am, 1.30 & 7.40pm; Luxe (IMAX) 10.55am, 1.45, 4.45, 7.40 & 11.00pm; Palazzo (IMAX) 10.05am, 12.35, 3.05, 5.40, 8.15 & 10.50pm; Devi 7.00 & 10.00pm

VENOM (U/A) (3D) ★★★
58888 Code: ven
Tom Hardy, Michelle Williams, Riz Ahmed, Jenny Slate, Reid Scott, Woody Harrelson
AGS Navalur 10.45pm; AGS T Nagar 8.20am & 10.00pm; AGS Maduravoyal 8.05am & 10.35pm; Escape 9.30am, 3.40 & 10.10pm; Kasi Talkies 2.30pm; Mayajaal 10.30am, 12.55 & 5.50pm; PVR Ampa 7.15pm; PVR Pallavaram 10.45am, 1.30 & 7.45pm; PVR Velachery 10.15am, 4.30 & 10.45pm; S2 Perambur 9.55am, 12.30 & 6.55pm; Sathyam 11.00am, 1.30 & 7.40pm; Luxe (IMAX) 10.55am, 1.45, 4.45, 7.40 & 11.00pm; Palazzo (IMAX) 10.05am, 12.35, 3.05, 5.40, 8.15 & 10.50pm; Devi 7.00 & 10.00pm

ASSAMESE
VILLAGE ROCKSTARS (U) ★★★
58888 Code: vil
Bhanita Das, Basanti Das
Residing in a gorgeous remote village in Assam, Dhruu loves to climb the trees, go fishing with the boys and flaunt her thermocool guitar when she isn't helping her widowed mother with her daily chores. She wishes to own a real guitar someday, but can people of limited means dare to dream?
PVR Velachery 7.20pm

TELUGU
DEVADAS (U/A) ★★★
58888 Code: dev
Nagarjuna, Nani, Rashmika Mandanna, Aakanksha Singh, Kunal Kapoor
A don seeks treatment from a doctor, who not only saves his life but also offers him refuge.
Escape 6.40pm; Luxe 10.45pm; Mayajaal 3.20pm; Palazzo 3.55pm

GEETHA GOVINDAM (U/A) ★★★
58888 Code: gee
Vijay Deverakonda, Rashmika Mandanna
Govind falls in love with Geetha, but Geetha doesn't reciprocate his love as he comes across as a womaniser.
Escape 9.50am

NOTA (U) ★★★
58888 Code: not
Vijay Deverakonda, Mehreen Pirzada, Yaashika Anand, Nasser, Sathyaraj
Sitting chief minister Vinodhan, who is facing imprisonment in an illegal assets case, makes his son, Varun the temporary CM until his return. The disinterested young man gradually wakes up to the sorry state of affairs and tries to bring in a change.
Palazzo 8.55am, 12.10 & 6.40pm; Sathyam 8.35am, 4.10, 7.20 & 10.30pm; Abirami 9.45am, 7.15 & 10.20pm; AGS Navalur 7.10pm; AGS T Nagar 8.30am, 3.05, 6.30 & 10.25pm; AGS Villivakkam 9.10am, 12.15, 3.45, 6.55 & 10.10pm; AGS Maduravoyal 8.15, 8.30 & 10.20am, 2.00, 6.10 & 9.45pm; Escape 10.50am & 12.20pm; GK 5.00 & 9.15am & 10.30pm; Luxe 8.35, 9.50 & 11.45am, 12.55, 3.00, 6.30 & 9.40pm; Jothi 4.45 & 10.15pm; Kasi Talkies 5.00 & 11.20am & 11.00pm; Mayajaal 9.15, 10.40 & 11.40am, 1.40, 2.40, 4.40, 5.40, 7.40, 8.40, 10.40 & 11.40am; MM 6.30 & 10.00pm; PVR Velachery 9.00am, 12.50, 4.45 & 10.15pm; PVR Pallavaram 9.30am & 4.00pm; PVR Red Hills 9.15am, 12.00, 3.45 & 10.20pm; Remy 3.15 & 10.00pm; Raj 3.00 & 10.00pm; Rohini 10.00am, 1.00, 4.00, 4.05, 7.00 & 10.30pm; S2 Perambur 9.05am, 12.25 & 6.50pm; S2 Theagaraja 8.35am & 3.15pm; Woodlands 3.00pm; Sangam 12.30 & 7.25pm; Devi 1.00 & 4.00pm; Ega 12.45 & 4.00pm; Kamala 7.15pm; Kasi 5.00am, 8.15 & 10.00pm; Rakki Ambattur 9.00am, 12.00 & 3.15pm; Albert 11.45am & 3.00pm; Murugan 1.30 & 4.30pm; Vettri 8.45am; iDreams 10.00pm; Gopikrishna 9.00am, 12.30, 3.45, 6.50 & 10.30pm; Meera 10.45am, 2.30, 6.30 & 9.30pm; Velco 8.00am, 2.30, 6.30 & 9.30pm

MANDHARAM (U) ★★★
58888 Code: man
Asif Ali, Varsha Bollamma, Megha Mathew, Indrans, Ganesh Kumar
Mandharam is the coming of age story of Rajesh, how he finds true love after a series of heartbreaks.
Rohini 7.00pm; Luxe 10.25pm; Mayajaal 2.45pm

VARATHAN (U/A) ★★★
58888 Code: var
Fahadh Faasil, Aishwarya Lekshmi, Sharatfudeen
After losing his job, Abin and wife Priya shift from Dubai to the latter's family estate in Kerala to figure things out. However, a host of uninvited troubles confront the couple. Will they tackle them and stay or flee?
Rohini 4.00pm; Mayajaal 12.00pm; PVR Pallavaram 7.20pm; Palazzo 10.20pm

MALAYALAM
MANDHARAM (U) ★★★
58888 Code: man
Asif Ali, Varsha Bollamma, Megha Mathew, Indrans, Ganesh Kumar
Mandharam is the coming of age story of Rajesh, how he finds true love after a series of heartbreaks.
Rohini 7.00pm; Luxe 10.25pm; Mayajaal 2.45pm

MANDHARAM (U) ★★★
58888 Code: man
Asif Ali, Varsha Bollamma, Megha Mathew, Indrans, Ganesh Kumar
Mandharam is the coming of age story of Rajesh, how he finds true love after a series of heartbreaks.
Rohini 7.00pm; Luxe 10.25pm; Mayajaal 2.45pm

EVENTS



ART
Open Ended: A fundraiser art exhibition, in association with MCRT82 (Round Table 82), by young contemporary artists from different parts of India, at Art Houz, 123 Sterling Road, Nungambakkam, from 11am to 7pm, till October 9.
ART
Art Exhibition: An art show featuring the works by artists Basant Peringode, Hare Krishna, Bhanita Das, Basanti Das

Ramesh Gujar, R S Shakya and Shyamal Mukherjee, at ArtWorld Sarala's Art Centre, 1/12 Ganeshpuram 3rd Street, Teynampet, from 10.30am to 6pm, till October 10.
India Through A Lens: International photographers — Hellmuth Conz, Adam Barr and Magali Couffon de Trevos are celebrating the essence of Indian culture through their paintings, at Paprika Cafe, Courtyard by Marriott Chennai, 564, Anna Salai, Teynampet, from 12.30pm to 4pm, till October 28.
The Enigmatic Imagery: An exhibition of paintings and sculptures by Karthikeyan Pitchaimallian, at DakshinaChitra, East Coast Road, Mutlukadu, from 10am to 6pm, from October 7 to October 29.
MUSIC
Concert: A concert by Nisha Rajagopal with MR Gopinath on violin and Delhi Sairam on mridangam, at 6.15pm, at Music Concerts, Arkay Convention Centre, RH Road, Luz, Myslapore.

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Sridevi
1030 Marupadiyum
Papa
1100 Naagini
1130 Sivagami
1200 Perazhagi
1230 Vandhaal
Sridevi
1300 Naagini
1330 Sangadam
Theerukum
Saneeswaran
1530 Kaakkum
Deivam Kali
1600 Sangadam
Theerukum
Saneeswaran
1700 Naagini
1730 Perazhagi
1800 Kaakkum
Deivam Kali
1830 Vandhaal
Sridevi
1900 Sangadam
Theerukum
Saneeswaran
2000 Naagini
2100 Vandhaal
Sridevi
2130 Perazhagi
2200 Naagini
2230 Marupadiyum
2300 Sangadam
Theerukum
Saneeswaran
JAYA
0600 Oil Mayam
0630 Deiveega
Raagam
0700 News
0730 Kaalai Malar
0900 Thenkinnam
1000 Poonkatru
1030 Hit List
1100 Sonthangal
1130 Periya Idathu
Penn
1200 Cine Talkies
1230 Comedy
Express
1300 News
1330 Arusuvai Idhu
Thani Suvai
1430 Moviel
1730 Neengalum
Samaikalam
1830 Poonkatru
1900 Hit List
1930 News
2000 Comedy
Express
2030 Cine Talkies
2100 Sonthangal
2130 Guru Peyarchi
Live
2200 Comedy
Express
2230 News
2300 News
KALAIGNAR
0600 Chuda Chuda
0630 Puthu Paadal
0700 Vidiyale Vaa
0730 News
0800 Vidiyale Vaa
0900 Thaanum
Paalum
0930 Real Estate
1000 Sirippu Varudhu
Sridevi
1030 Odi Vilayadu
Papa
1100 Sneehithy
1200 Pada Varisal 10
1230 Varadhagi
Koduppukke
Sridevi
1300 News
1330 Movie
1600 Puthu Paadal
1700 Endrum Super
1730 Kalai Kovil
1800 Sirippu Varudhu
1830 Uchakkattam
1900 News
1930 Vaira Nenjam
2000 Madippakkam
Madhavan
2030 Rekha IPS
2100 Odi Vilayadu
Papa
2130 Ramanujar
2200 News
2202 Paasarai
Selthigal
2230 Thaanum
Paalum
2300 Sirippu Varudhu
RAJ
0600 Jesus Calls
0630 Vidiyal Puthithu
0700 Ayul
Muzhuvathum
Arokkiyam
0730 Siripuram Sri
Narayani Peedam
0750 News
0800 Nalla Neram
0830 Telemart
0900 Teleshopping
0930 Ganga Yamuna
1000 Mann Vasana
1030 Teleshopping
1100 Poovizhi
Vasalle
1130 Teleshopping
1200 Pengal Neram
1230 Indira
1300 News
1330 Movie
1700 Teleybu
1730 Indira
1800 Ganga Yamuna
1830 News
1900 Is Match
2200 Mann Vasana
2230 Poovizhi
Vasalle
2300 Movie
SUN
0600 Aalaya
Vazhipaadu
0630 Nalla Kalam
Pirakkudhu
0700 Deiva
Dharisanam
0730 News
0800 Kalyanamalai
Kanden
1400 Niram
Maaraadha
Poolak
1430 Semburuthi
1500 Mullum
Malarum
1530 Rekka Katti
Parakudhu
Manusu
1600 Sa Ra Ge Ma Pa
Fiat
Little Champs
1730 Devathayai
Kandath
1800 Thenali Raman
1830 Mullum
Malarum
1900 Azhagiya
Tamizh Magal
1930 Iniya Iru Malrgal
2000 Poovey
Poochoodava
2030 Yaaradi Nee
Mohini
2100 Semburuthi
2130 Oru Oorula
Rajakumari
2200 Rekka Katti
Parakudhu
Manusu
2230 Iniya Iru
Malrgal
2300 Semburuthi
2330 Poovey
Poochoodava
GEMINI
0600 Nithyaardhana
0630 Teleshopping
0700 Annugharam
0730 Movie: Majnu
1020 Movie:
Sankranthi
1400 Movie:
Kalavathi
1655 Movie: Dhruva
2030 Success Of No.
1 Yaari with Rana
2130 Rangasthalam
2230 Naagini 3 -
Gema Episode
2330 Gemini Kotha
Paatalu
ASIANET
0600 Karutha Muthu
0630 Vanambadi
0700 US Weekly
Round Up
0730 Cinema Diary
0800 Neelakuyil
0830 Kasthooriman
0900 Movie
1200 Comedy Stars
1330 Kasthooriman
1400 Neelakuyil
1430 Vanambadi
1500 Karutha Muthu
1530 Cinema Diary
1600 Best Of Comedy
Stars
1630 Movie
1900 Vanambadi
1930 Neelakuyil
2000 Karutha Muthu
2030 Kasthooriman
2100 Seetha
Kalyanam
2130 Best Of Comedy
Stars
2230 Best Of Comedy
Stars
2300 Seetha Kalyanam
ZEE BOLLYWOOD
'Ittefaq' at 2000 Hrs
'1000 Hrs' at 1700 Hrs
'1347 Parker' at 1700 Hrs
'1732 Sarani Teri Kasam' at 2000 Hrs
'2144 Kai Po Che' at 2000 Hrs
'Phir Hera Pheri' at 2100 Hrs
'0754 Sansar' at 1058 Hrs
'1420 Judai' at 1733 Hrs
'2100 Phir Hera Pheri' at 2100 Hrs
'0611 Tanu Weds Manu Returns' at 0611 Hrs
'0821 Final Destination' at 0821 Hrs
'0953 Stuart Little 2' at 1107 Hrs
'0700 Jeete Hain Shaan Se' at 0700 Hrs
'1111 Ghayal Once Again' at 1111 Hrs
'1354 Indira - The Tiger' at 1354 Hrs
'0850 Saat Khoon Maaf' at 1110 Hrs
'1310 Khichdi-The Movie' at 1310 Hrs
'1500 Fida' at 1500 Hrs
'1700 Break Ke Baad' at 1700 Hrs
'2100 Rockstar' at 2100 Hrs
'2335 Udaan' at 2335 Hrs
'Judwaa 2' at 1700 Hrs
'0625 Hera Pheri' at 0625 Hrs
'0925 Makkhi' at 0925 Hrs
'1420 Fida (Love Hate Love Story)' at 1420 Hrs
'1700 Judwaa 2' at 1700 Hrs
'2015 Vivagam' at 2015 Hrs
'2310 Dhiammu' at 2310 Hrs

CONTACTS
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Pics: Johan Sathyadas

# REMEMBERING THE MAHATMA AND RUKMINI DEVI ARUNDALE



Glimpses from the glittering evening

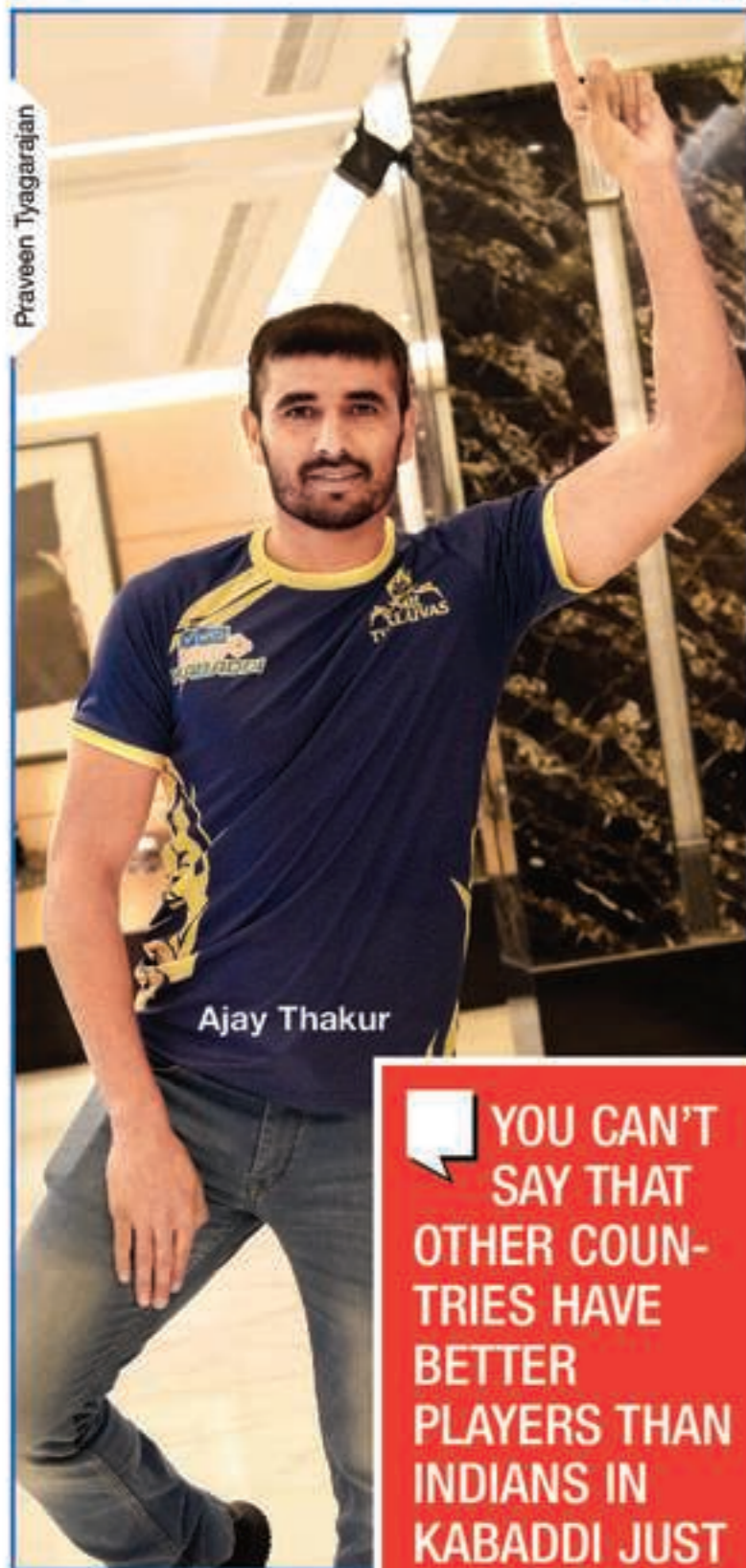


It was a scintillating evening as the Kalakshetra Foundation paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi and Rukmini Devi Arundale through its production, 'Shanthi Sutra — Thread of Peace', held on October 1 at Rukmini Arangam in association with *The Times of India*.  
Dr B K Krishnaraj Vanavarayar, Chairman, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Coimbatore Kendra, was the guest of honour. Sparkling performances marked the occasion, which was a combined effort of all the senior faculty members of Rukmini Devi College of Fine Arts.



# Staying strong with local talent: coach E Bhaskaran

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



“They’ve to play 22 matches continuously in the first leg, in Chennai, they have five matches back-to-back. Only if they’re fit, will they be able to maintain the standard of the performance throughout. So, we’ll definitely try and implement some squad rotation policy for each match,” he says.

Interestingly, the squad has also got more Tamil players this time. “We’ve five local players. Last year, we had only two from Tamil Nadu. Jayaseelan is already a big name in the local kabaddi circuit. But he hasn’t had good chances yet in Pro Kabaddi. He’s only 19 and quite fit. Gopu and Arun are already experienced players. Ponparthiban is another addition. He was hand-picked after trials in differ-

ent parts of the state. And there is Pradap, who was also there in the last season.”

The coach also clarifies as to why we don’t have any Iranian player in the team. “Our budget didn’t allow it, so we’ve taken two Korean players. Since one of them is injured now, we’ve taken in a Kenyan player.” But how have Iranians got the better of Indians in the last few years? “We have many techniques and they pick them up from us while playing with our players. Also, they have always been hardworking. Their fitness lev-

el is exceptional; none of them have body fat. Wrestling is the base for them, which also works for their advantage. So, they are good with low-tackle, power, etc. But their raiders aren’t that great. On the other hand, you can’t really say that other countries have better players than Indians in kabaddi just because we settled for a bronze at the Asian Games. We’ve a good base in kabaddi. It’s our game and we can’t deny that fact. Iran has got a maximum of 50 kabaddi players whereas we’ve got thousands of kabaddi players in India.”

**YOU CAN’T SAY THAT OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE BETTER PLAYERS THAN INDIANS IN KABADDI JUST BECAUSE WE SETTLED FOR A BRONZE AT THE ASIAN GAMES**  
— E BHASKARAN

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Jupiter enters Scorpio from October 11 to March 29, 2019, then goes to Sagittarius between March 30 to April 21 and again re-enters Scorpio on April 22 and remains there till November 5, 2019. Celebrity Astro Numerologist Anupam V Kapil tells us what changes Jupiter brings for your lagna/ascendant, and for India

**Aries**

Your eighth house will be activated by Jupiter favouring deep secrets and inheritances, in every such Jupiter transit you may not get an inheritance, but you will certainly gain from other people's resources. In fact, this is a good period for joint resources or partnerships. Spiritual travels will reveal mystic and deep knowledge and enriched you. A lot of your cherished dreams will get fulfilled between April 1 to 22 when Jupiter moves to Sagittarius briefly. Health certainly needs a lot of attention, if you have chronic diseases, you will recover with remedial measures. A good time for applying for bank loans as other people will willingly help you in some way or the other. Powerful but fortunate changes in your life which are rewarding will make you richer in the long run. You shall be healed of unwanted period of stress and strain. No doubt there will be occult and religious/spiritual experiences that shall lift you out of a troubled period.

**Taurus**

Jupiter enters your seventh house, partnerships, marriage, contracts and public relations will be the keyword for you this year, and there will be furtherance of all these causes till November 2019. Luck in business through good negotiations is indicated, money will be spent for good causes such as marriage and expansion of business. You will have close relationship or partnership with foreigners, possibly of the opposite sex. This is a wonderful period to marry, though the partner is likely to be slightly elder to you. Comfort from wife, opposite sex, acquisition of wealth, moveable and immovable assets is indicated. April to June will be a very crucial period for your health and career when Saturn and Ketu conjoin in your eighth house and Mars will be aspecting both these planets. Your contacts with people will be helpful and gainful. Other people will also come forward to help you. Any kind of professional help, especially from doctors, lawyers or consultants shall be extremely useful. Any civil suits or litigations to be decided within one year will go in your favour; unless you are running an adverse dasha. But don't try to get more than your due as you can get into trouble as you are still under Asham Shani.

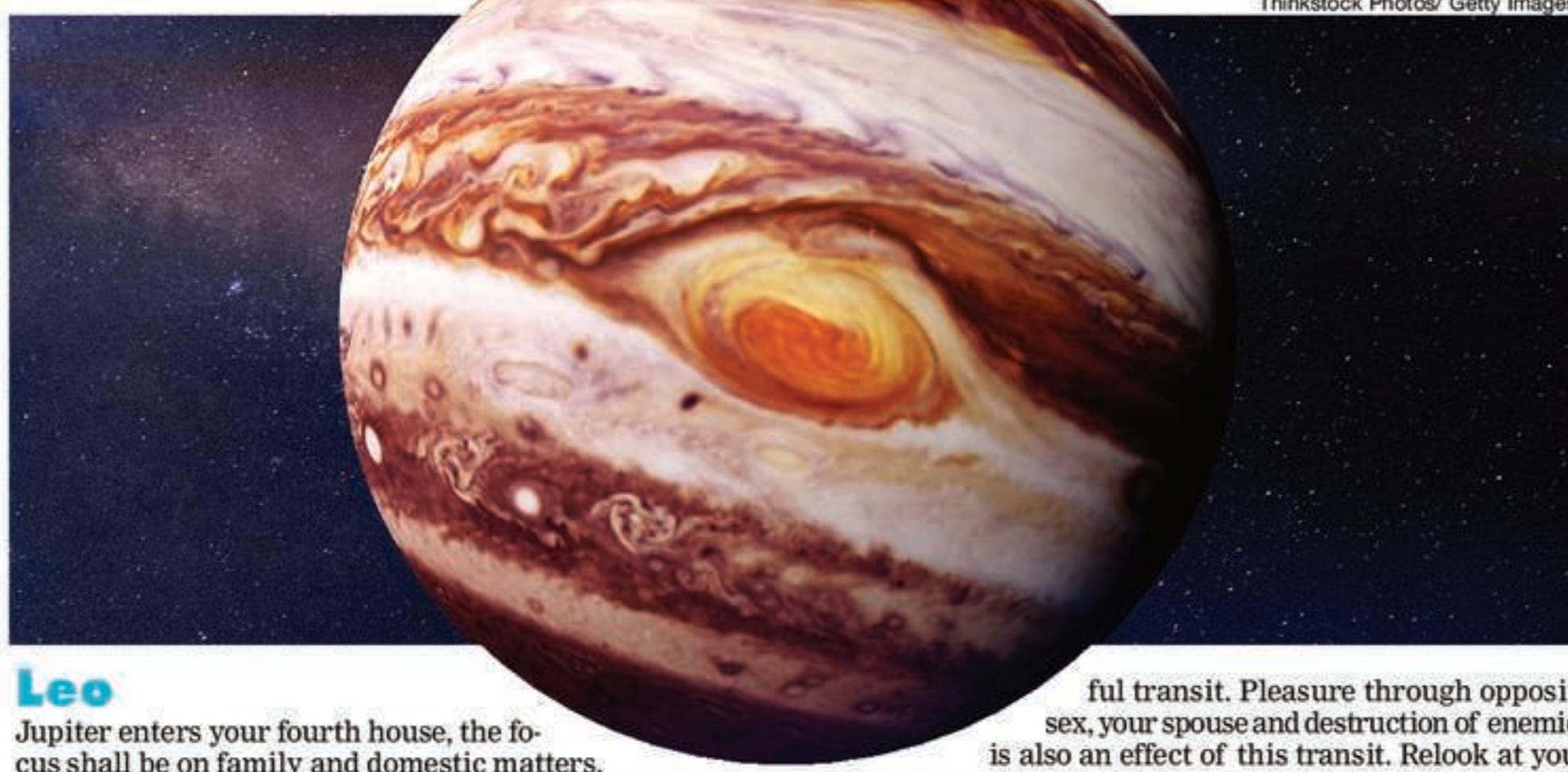
**Gemini**

Significant changes in lifestyle are indicated as Jupiter enters your sixth house which rules over your health, hygiene, diseases, debts and enemies. Quick recovery of health issues, if any, by change in diet and lifestyle are indicated. Avoid indulgences at all costs. If you need loans for work/business, they shall come through. The weak point which you need to address this year is your marriage and partnerships issues as Jupiter will be twelfth from its seventh house. Property related issues also need careful attention or they might create problems/losses as Jupiter will be third from your fourth house, not a good time to buy new conveyances or property. Mothers health will be cause for concern, especially around March 2019. Nothing shall come by luck, you will need to work very hard to get results. Avoid being insensitive and self-centred, don't be over-confident, learn from your past mistakes. Saturn in your eighth house till January 2020 is a difficult obstacle that you need to counter on the health and career front. This is a good time for any kind of work and duty that contributes to your personal growth.

**Cancer**

Relationships with the opposite sex shall become important as Jupiter moves into your fifth house, which also rules over creativity and expression. An easy going time coupled with sensual pleasures is indicated, any relationship usually started during this period is true in nature. Love relationships prosper; you may have contact with foreigners/different ethnic backgrounds. Artists and those in entertainment fields will shine, expression

of creative talent will increase leading to success and financial gains. Progress/excellence in academics is indicated, your intuition will also be good. Plans/schemes will be grand and successful. Interest in music and entertainment shall grow as the fifth house rules entertainment. Jupiter gives you good success to manage your business as fruits of your good previous life Karmas will fructify. Good monetary gains, socially popularity and gains through influential friends/contacts are promised as Jupiter aspects your eleventh house. April is not a good month for your spouse/partners. Interest in past life, esoteric and mantra Vidya will increase and this is a good time to be initiated into mantra Vidya. December 14 to January 10 is not a good time for long distance travels. Those born on 2/12/21/30 th will find next year most eventful and prosperous.



Thinkstock Photos/ Getty Images

**Leo**

Jupiter enters your fourth house, the focus shall be on family and domestic matters. Expansion on the home front, whether it is through addition of a new member in the family or buying a bigger house is indicated. You will experience inner peace and security. Home, family, personal life, properties, etc., all these will be greatly helped and improved during this Jupiter transit. This is the best transit for making your home, family and personal life more secure and guarantee that it will always be a support and comfortable. Domestic problems get cleared away and you will be happy in your domestic life, unless your Sun and Moon are not afflicted by Saturn. Good support to/from family is seen, relations with parents will remain cordial and you may gain through them. Acquiring property/make additions/alterations in your house, buying a new conveyance are indicated, also a good period for investment in real estate, in case you are planning not to live there. You will be able to handle your affairs confidently and more wisely for a better future. Negative manifestations include lack of follow through, too many ideas without a plan to set them into motion, gossip, too much information, fickleness, and indecision.

**Virgo**

Though the entry of Jupiter in third house brings Jupiter slight instability and obstacles, it will also increase your contacts within your immediate surroundings. Gain through writing, even if it may not be your usual activity, and gain to writers is indicated. Relationships with siblings improves and you may receive financial benefits. Spiritual trips shall be re-

warding. You will be more accommodating of other people's views and have a broad outlook. You feel that most limitations you are undergoing are self imposed, so you may have large plans for the future, so be careful not to go to extremes and do not commit to projects that you cannot possibly do or fulfil. Plan effectively for gain. Your mothers health will be a cause of concern around April.

**Libra**

Jupiter moves into your second house of finances, and eight from the sixth house; it bringing more financial security and it favours material possessions and resources. Gain of money is possible if you concentrate, but you must understand how you can effectively use your resources. Unfortunately, most people mismanage resources during this wonder-

ful transit. Pleasure through opposite sex, your spouse and destruction of enemies is also an effect of this transit. Reread at your goals honestly and see what you really must do to achieve them as it will be easy to make the necessary changes in your resources to help attain your goals. Material resources can be of great comfort and you can derive pleasure from them. Acquire material things that you really need, not just for the sake of social status, otherwise it will be a waste. This is a good period for investment of money with some restraint.

**Scorpio**

Jupiter moves into your sign and brings expanded pride and confidence; you shall have a spiritual bent of mind during this period. Your children will do well academically. A good period for mantra initiation, sudden gains possible, but expenditures shall be high. This transit has a very positive impact on your personality, it makes you feel more secure and the impression you make on others shall be favourable. Increased self-confidence and poise shall have favourable impact and increase your activities, too. Irrespective of other difficult transits, this will be a happy period where you at least feel good in spite of any bad aspects elsewhere. Spiritual and pleasure travels increase, you will be keen to travel and broaden your experiences. Do not withdraw or hide your talents from people. A time to get rid of prejudices and childish habits. Capitalise on favours and gainful resources that you are set to receive. Contacts and relations with others shall be beneficial. Watch your diet as this Jupiter transit will increase your weight. Those born on 7/16/25 th November will achieve great success next year.

**Sagittarius**

The twelfth house Jupiter transit is more beneficial for spiritual matters and foreign travels rather than material benefits. Do not be a risk taker, you need direction, clear goals, and strong plans, and value tangible results. You will be less egoistic now and more sympathetic and helpful to others. Interest and study of occult and metaphysics will greatly interest you and will also give you knowledge, support and comfort. There might be someone who enters your life in any guise and act as your spiritual guide, though he/she might not be a publicly recognised teacher; sometimes even an old friend might assume this role and help you in your inner growth. Taking care of your daily lives, routines, work, and health contribute to your sense of fulfilment and attract success. Those born on 4/13/22/ November will have a very tough time next year, if they are also under Sade Satti or ashram Shani.

**Capricorn**

Jupiter brings you a big relief moving into your eleventh house of financial gains boosts your overall life and success as your hopes, ideals and wishes for the future play an important role now. Work that had been stopped, or money that been stuck shall come in, your status shall be restored. Foreign trips are indicated. Friends shall be source of great help and benefit to you. Your involvement with group activities increases. You shall be more congenial to your interest, so be reciprocal to them. Your approach will be more idealistic, try to be helpful to others, if improvements in your life don't affect others, then changes will not be as meaningful or long lasting for you too. In short, whatever you give, will come back in greater quantity April/May are very tough periods for health.

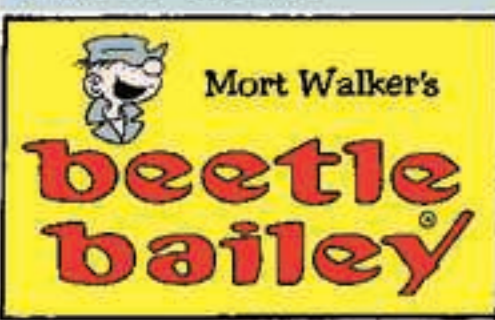
**Aquarius**

The tenth house transit of Jupiter is said to be the most difficult transit, it brings stagnation in most areas of your life. You need to be very diplomatic, you can't afford to pick up quarrels with anyone. Jupiter affects your career, profession, social status and reputation, unless Saturn is moving over your natal Sun in your birth chart, this Jupiter transit suggests that any reasonable efforts with several cautions will lead you towards considerable progress. At all costs avoid a domineering, overbearing or arrogant attitude. Working professionals may have troubles with superiors due to your inflated ego, so be careful, think calmly and avoid such attitude. Often it is seen that one's behaviour during this period causes others to resent you and then work against you even after this transit is over after a year. Reward and recognition for the hard work done are assured and you can expect promotion and public recognition during this transit as long as you don't become arrogant and domineering. Travel connected with work is seen and there shall be increased dealing with foreigners.

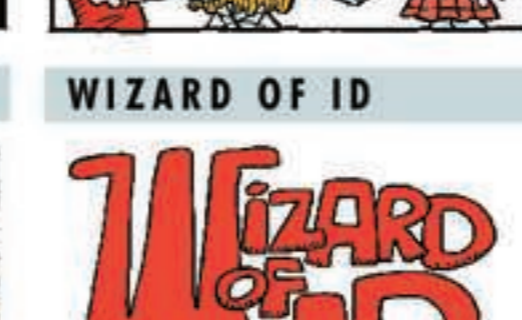
**Pisces**

Your fortune and luck are bound to shine as Jupiter enters your ninth house, for a year. Most of your cherished hopes will get fulfilled, also a good year to get married. Interest in serious and profound subjects like philosophy, metaphysics and religion and deep knowledge grows and benefits you. Gain is shown through writing, communication, publication and communication, those connected with these fields shall also prosper. Opportunities for extensive and long travel for learning, teaching, formal or informal are indicated, so it's a good time for those pursuing higher studies or who want to specialise courses. Foreign travels done now shall be gainful. It is certain that you shall feel more religious and have an expanded consciousness. Those born on 6/15/24 will have very eventful year with lot of achievement, provided their Moon is not under Sade satti or ashram Shani.

**BEEBLE BAILEY**



**HAGAR THE HORRIBLE**



**TIMES SUDOKU**

**How To Play**

Fill in the grid so that every horizontal row, every vertical column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9, without repeating the numbers in the same row, column or box. You can't change the digits already given in the grid. Every puzzle has one solution.

4							9	
		2	4				8	
		3	7					8
							7	1
9		4					6	5
7	2	1						
		5					9	7
							7	6
							6	4
							1	
								6

**TIMES KAKURO**

The numbers in the blue squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the blue square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 2 boxes below 12 must contain 2 digits that add upto 12, whereas for 20, the 3 boxes placed horizontally next to it must add upto 20. No zero's are used here, only the digits one through nine. Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance in the example, we cannot have the combination of 8+4+8 for 20.

**Level: Easy**

20									
12									
19					33				19
14								10	
					27			12	
					10	16			
23					22				
11								14	
28					15	16	14	12	
					23				

**SCRAMBLE**

Rearrange the letters in the four word jumbles, one letter to each square/circle, to make four ordinary words

**GNEOR**   

**ERIOS**    

**SIENNA**  

**HISUPP**  

**How To Play**

Now arrange the letters in the circles to form the answer to the riddle or to fill in the missing word as indicated

\_\_\_\_\_ can only survive through silence  
- Carmen de Monteflores (10)

**LOOP THE LOOP**

**Rules**

- Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A).
- Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B).
- Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines.
- You can't draw lines around zeroes.
- Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

**How to begin:** Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only

remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

**Hints:** Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or if a line extension may create a branch or cause a deadend.

Fig A:

Fig B:

Not allowed (Fig B)

3	2	2	3	2	2
			2	3	
3	1		1	2	0
			2	1	2
			2	2	3
			1	2	
			3	3	2

**MINDBENDER**

Crack the code to find three famous big band leaders:

GJSSD LTRIPS, LQJSS RNOJW, IZPJ JOONSLYTS.

(Hint: The code is sequential. If A is P then B is Q, C is R etc.)

**SPELLATHON**

**Today's Ratings:**

88-AVERAGE | 89-GOOD | 11-OUTSTANDING

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown in today's puzzle? In making a word, each letter may be used only once. Each word must contain the central letter. There should be at least one seven letter word. Plurals, foreign words and proper names are not allowed. British English Dictionary is used as reference.

S E T  
A U L  
P

**SOLUTIONS TO GAMES/PUZZLES**

**TIMES KAKURO**

20	11	17	7	9	11				
12									
19					33				19
14								10	
					27			12	
					10	16			
23					22				
11								14	
28					15	16	14	12	
					23				

**LOOP THE LOOP**

**TIMES SUDOKU**

4	6	8	5	7	9	1	3	2
1	9	2	4	3	8	6	5	7
5	3	7	6	2	1	8	9	4
3	5	6	8	4	2	7	1	9
9	8	4	3	1	7	6	2	5
7	2	1	9	6	5	3	4	8
6	4	5	2	8	3	9	7	1
2	1	9	7	5	6	4	8	3
8	7	3	1	9	4	2	5	6

**SCRAMBLE:** Words: Goner, osier, insane, upshish  
Answer: Oppression can only survive through silence - Carmen de Monteflores

**MINDBENDER:** Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller, Duke Ellington (A becomes V, B becomes W, etc.)

**SPELLATHON:** lust, lute, pause, plus, pule, PULSATE, pulse, salute, suet, taupe, upset



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# GOING BACK IN TIME WITH THE KOLU DOLLS

“EACH TIME, WHEN I GO TO BUY SOME GIFTS, I FIND HUGE PILES OF ITEMS MADE OF PLASTIC. IT'S VERY SAD THAT THE ESSENCE OF THE FESTIVAL HAS GONE, AND INSTEAD WE ARE POLLUTING THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE NAME OF FESTIVAL

— LALITHA SAI, TECH CONSULTANT AND A KOLU LOVER



Pics: Praveen Tyagarajan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

She says that the Maya Bazaar set has been a hit with the children and adults alike.

However, many long-time residents of the city opine that these thematic kulus and doll sets are new developments which started only a couple of decades ago. Lalitha Sai, a resident of RA Puram, says that the kolu has lost its old-world charm. “In those days, people from Puducherry used to bring clay dolls as a head load in big baskets. They'd roam the streets of the city, and women and children would buy dolls from them, from the comfort of the porches of their homes. It was a very intimate affair; there used to be bonhomie, and a certain sense of familiarity



show off wealth and societal importance. “There is so much glitz and money power woven around kolu, now. Even the guest lists are carefully drawn. Earlier, dolls were given a coat of natural paints and Ramar blue used to be the norm. But these days, most of the dolls are being painted with harmful chemical paints.”

**SOME 30 YEARS AGO, PEOPLE KEPT KOLU IN JUST THREE WOODEN STEPS. WHILE THE STEPS WERE SET UP BY THE MAN OF THE FAMILY, CHILDREN JOINED THEM IN DECORATING THE PADIS (STEPS)**

— RAMU, RETD. PROFESSOR, MADRAS UNIVERSITY



the padis (steps). Since it used to be vacation time, children used to find this an opportunity to showcase their creativity, as the padis could be made with anything innovative. Those days, a lot of importance was given to symmetry. It was a must that the two sides of the padis be symmetrical in appearance, and so, the dolls could be displayed accordingly. Also, when guests would come, and while feeding the little children at home, the elders would point out to particular dolls and narrate the mythological stories associated with them. But now, all this has become pretty much mechanical and impersonal, in a way.”

with the vendor; and so, in addition to money the vendors were given buttermilk and milk, and life stories would be exchanged. Children understood hospitality, and the importance of treating everyone equal, unlike these days, when people just rush off to ‘shop’ in huge malls,” she says.

The biggest casualty of thematic kulus is symmetry, says Ramu, a former professor with Madras University and a resident of Triplicane. He recalls, “Some 30 years ago, people kept kolu in just three wooden steps. While the steps were set up by the man of the family, children joined them in decorating

Concurring with Ramu, is S Kripa, a doctor; who says that of late, kolu has become yet another way to

Lalitha makes a case against plastic use during Navaratri, when she says that even the thambboom (betel leaves, areca nut, turmeric, and vermillion) given to women who come to see the kolu, has given way to costly gifts, mostly made out of plastic. “Each time, when I go to buy some gifts, I find huge piles of items made of plastic. It's very sad that the essence of the festival has gone, and instead we are polluting the environment in the name of festival,” she says.

Lalitha Subramanian, an art critic, and a television presenter says that Navaratri which started off as an occasion to worship Goddess Durga has turned into a festival. Tracing the origin of Navaratri, she says, “It's said that it was sage Suka who detailed the importance of Navaratri to King Pareekshith, which he passed on to his son Janamejaya. However, Janamejaya went back to sage Vyasa, who originally came out with the worship padhathi. The *Devi Mahatmyam* is considered to be the text that has described Navaratri and the *vratam* in detail.” However, she adds that the practice of displaying dolls for Navaratri is rather ‘new’. In fact, there is no evidence in our Puranas – it can only be gathered that perhaps, this form of worshipping the Goddess is an offshoot of Chitrapadam (drawing of gods and goddesses on cloth, and worshipping them), which later gave way to making of colourful dolls.”

She adds, “Yet another school of thought suggests that agricultural practices down south led to the practice of displaying clay dolls during Navaratri. After tilling the lands, the farmers would use the excess mud to repair the walls of their houses. The leftover clay was thus used to make figurines, mostly inspired by Raja Ravi Varma's paintings, and from the manjal pillarar mode or worship during rituals. But then, once Navaratri was over and the rains set in, these figurines would be immersed into the overflowing rivers, thus ensuring the clay once again became fertile and settled on the banks of the rivers.” She also recalls another possibility, “Earlier child marriages were rampant, and to make the kids getting married more comfortable with each other, the groom's side used to gift dolls to the girl. Guess somewhere down the line these collections found their way to the kolu padis.”

And then, there is this custom in certain communities where doll-gifting is an important wedding ritual. The *marappachi* wedding set would be specially commissioned by the bride's side, and even displayed among the ‘dowry items’. “It was a ritual that signified the advent of married life in the bride and groom's lives, and implied role-playing according to societal norms as set by the elders of the groom's house,” she says.

However, as they all concur; despite kulus getting that commercial makeover, there are many who still observe it as *vratam*, and worship the Goddess with single-minded devotion. “Not all see the nine days as a time to dress up and buy new things,” signs off Lalitha.

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# 'My kids talk about my acting skills off screen more than on screen'

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**  
**In real life, has there been a time when your kids have complained about you being an overbearing mom?**

Yes, of course, and I don't think I would be a good enough parent if I wasn't overbearing and overprotective at times. Putting it in the nicest way possible, you can't always look at it from a child's point of view. When you are in a parent's seat, you have enormous responsibility on your shoulders and this is something you can't fail at. You can fail at a lot of things in life, probably even things like your career or marriage and still bear it with some sort of dignity. But if you fail as a parent, it can be devastating. You can't accept that you have failed at raising your child well. It's a difficult pill to swallow.

**Parenting is not easy, but do you think it's even tougher in this day and age of social media, when children have so many other distractions? Also, how do you assert yourself as a parent without coming across as overbearing?**

It's difficult, because we can't accept the fact that our children are different from what we were at that age. If you look at your child and say, 'I never did this when I was seven years old' it's not going to work, because you were not in the same era or circumstances when social media was so dominant. Instead of putting your kids down or trying to put them in their place, you will have to figure out what their place really is. You have to put yourself in their shoes once in a while to understand that they think differently and the fact that they will not be you. Whether they are watching television or are on the internet, how much can you control that? You will have to take it one day at a time, one channel or one mouse click at a time, literally, to figure out how to work out your relationship with them.

**What's Ajay's role when it comes to parenting?**

One of the biggest roles he plays is that he supports me completely in whatever I say, whatever rules I lay down. Like, if I say no gadgets for the next two weeks, he's very clear and tells them your mom has said it. I have 100 per cent support in that regard. There are times where he turns around and disciplines the kids, too, so it isn't just me disciplining them. We play good cop, bad cop equally.

**We have spoken about you as a mother. What about Kajol, the daughter? Growing up, what was the rapport you shared with your mom?**

My mother is wonderful. I had an amazing upbringing and I thank her for it, especially after having my own kids. I always look back at what she taught me as a child, and I tell her that I love the way she handled things, especially simple things like talking to one's kids about social responsibility, God, death and souls. My mother didn't sit down to explain to me, but spoke about it freely in front of me. It was something we accepted as a part of life, and hence, as a grown-up, while dealing with certain situations, my reactions are not that of shock or disbelief, because it's been drilled into me from a young age. I may not have listened to it at that time and even felt like 'Oh God, she is at it again'. I had that attitude as well, but today, I see how it has helped me. I remember my mother telling me, 'When you get angry, the other person wins. Do you really want that to happen?' I used to get so frustrated then, but now when I am older, I can see that what she said, all along, was right. This is just one of the many things. I always tell her that she was gutsy, brave and out-of-the-box as a parent and I really hope that I can emulate her as far as my kids are concerned.

**You have been a part of Bollywood for over 25 years. How do you react to comments like, 'We have grown up watching your films'?**

I tell them that I was really young when I started! It may seem a lot to somebody else, but when I look at it, I tell myself, 'That's it? You have done just some 30-odd films.' I should have probably done around 100. But I feel my life has a lot more in it today and it's not just about movies. It's about my personal life, having a family and raising two kids. I am more complete and I feel more fulfilled than I did 26 years ago.

**It's assumed that you are not really ambitious...**

I'd say that I am ambitious in a different way. I did good work and I still do films that I believe in. It's all worked out well for me. Honestly, if I had done a film just for the sake of doing it or just



**KAJOL**

because I had nothing better to do, it would have taken the sheen off it. I wouldn't have liked that. I like the pace I am at and the fact that I can take a break from work and go on a holiday if I want to, look after my family and take care of myself. I like the space I am in.

**What about teaming up with Ajay as a co-star for a film?**

If we have to do a film together, it will have to be something that suits us both as people. We have been seen on screen and off screen for years now. The fact is that we have been married for 19 years. So we will have to keep all the parameters in mind.

**What do your kids think about your performances in films?**

My kids don't talk about my acting abilities! They talk

about my acting skills off screen more than on screen (laughs!). According to my daughter, I am highly dramatic, but I say that's the way I am. It's not drama, it's normal. Also, my kids don't like me crying, even if it's on screen. I think it upsets them. They don't like that.



...with Riddhi Sen in a still from Helicopter Eela

**26 YEARS IN BOLLYWOOD MAY SEEM A LOT TO SOMEBODY ELSE, BUT WHEN I LOOK AT IT, I TELL MYSELF, 'THAT'S IT? YOU HAVE DONE JUST SOME 30-ODD FILMS.' I SHOULD HAVE PROBABLY DONE AROUND 100. I FEEL MY LIFE HAS A LOT MORE IN IT TODAY AND IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT THE MOVIES. IT'S ABOUT MY PERSONAL LIFE, HAVING A FAMILY AND RAISING TWO KIDS. I FEEL MORE FULFILLED THAN I DID 26 YEARS AGO**

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